



Global Prehumanisms:

An interdisciplinary conference

In the wake of the posthuman turn, scholars across the humanities and sciences are rethinking humanity's place in the world via technology, biology, ecology, and ethics. As we explore new paradigms that reject anthropocentrism and seek to better understand the imbrication of humans, environments, and technologies, we look to the past for alternate conceptions of humanity and its role. Global Prehumanisms will bring together a diverse group of international scholars to explore how the premodern world, broadly conceived, can offer models for decentering the human. Environmental cultivation and exploitation, interactions with flora and fauna, and depictions of cosmology from Asia to Africa to Europe to the Americas reveal notions of "the human" that stand in stark contrast to post-Cartesian humanism. Likewise, the interplay among humans and materials objects, built environments, networks of commerce, and epidemiology and contagion illuminate the *longue durée* of the larger global exchanges that underwrite human dominance in the Anthropocene. Global Prehumanisms will foster conversations across traditional boundaries within Medieval and Early Modern Studies and provide opportunities for collaboration with our colleagues in later periods to create a global, transhistorical, and multidisciplinary dialogue about posthumanist futures.

Send proposals of 250 words to stoppino@illinois.edu and trilling@illinois.edu by May 18, 2018.

Keynote Lectures by:

Peggy McCracken

Mary Fair Croushore
Professor of the
Humanities

University of Michigan

Thursday, 10/18

Anne Harris

Johnson Family University
Professor of Art and
Art History

DePauw University

Friday, 10/19

Meals and lodging will be
provided for all presenters

Program in Medieval Studies

University of Illinois
Urbana, IL

www.medieval.illinois.edu

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